

Judicial Conference of Ohio

Role and Overview

The Judicial Conference (JCO), as an integral part of the judicial system of the state, continually studies the coordination of the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, rules and practice, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, and in general, considers the business and problems pertaining to the administration of justice throughout the state and makes recommendations for its improvement. Most of the work of the Conference is performed by the more than 20 standing and ad hoc committees of judges who volunteer their time to provide expertise, practical insight, and guidance to staff members who facilitate its activities. The Conference provides information and collaboration to the other branches of Ohio government, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public. All 724 Ohio judges are members of the Judicial Conference. Policy decisions are made by the Executive Committee comprised of approximately 50 members, including the officers elected by the members, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio as honorary chair, representatives of the various judicial associations, and the administrative executives of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Conference. During the fiscal year 2012-13 biennium, the legislative staff prepared 12 judicial impact statements and 70 legislative letters. Judges testified at least 39 times before legislative committees. During the same period, staff prepared and distributed to judges 12 Enactment News articles providing impact and practical implementation advice. The collaborative project on local court funding offered training programs utilizing the court funding handbook. Judges assisted the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections with development of Probation officer training standards, sentencing provisions, and the certificate of qualification of employment. The Conference's 10 staff members supported over 22 standing and ad hoc judicial committees and coordinated more than 80 meetings per year in person or via conference call. The 10 staff members also assist the six judicial associations to coordinate 20 to 30 meetings per year.

More information regarding the Judicial Conference of Ohio is available at www.ohiojudges.org.

Agency Priorities

- Promote understanding and cooperation among the branches of government and provide information and services to the other branches. Improving the administration of justice through sensible and practical legislation and collaboration at the state level, serves to ensure uniformity in the application of the law and practice throughout the state.
- Provide leadership to the judiciary by speaking on behalf of judges, providing information and services to judges and by coordinating activities of the judicial associations. Rotary funds support a database, an online directory, a website, assistance to six judicial associations and a comprehensive set of pattern jury instructions.
- Promote public confidence in the judiciary by encouraging uniformity in the application of the law, rules, and practice and by enhancing the public's understanding of the judicial system.
- Expand innovation and efficiency in local courts and at the Judicial Conference. Serving as a central resource for these matters encourages uniformity throughout the state while allowing for individual solutions to fit local problems. Enhancing the website, new communication and research tools will all serve to meet this priority.
- Assist Local Courts with budget challenges. Current economic conditions are repeatedly creating conflicts between judges and local funding authorities over local priorities, levels of service, numbers of employees, court facility conditions, availability of treatment services and local support institutions such as jail space and security.

Funding Recommendation for 2014 and 2015

- GRF: Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$824.9 thousand (or a 2.9% increase from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$847.2 thousand (or a 2.7% increase from fiscal year 2014).
- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$1.2 million (or a 2.0% increase from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$1.2 million (or a 1.8% increase from fiscal year 2014).

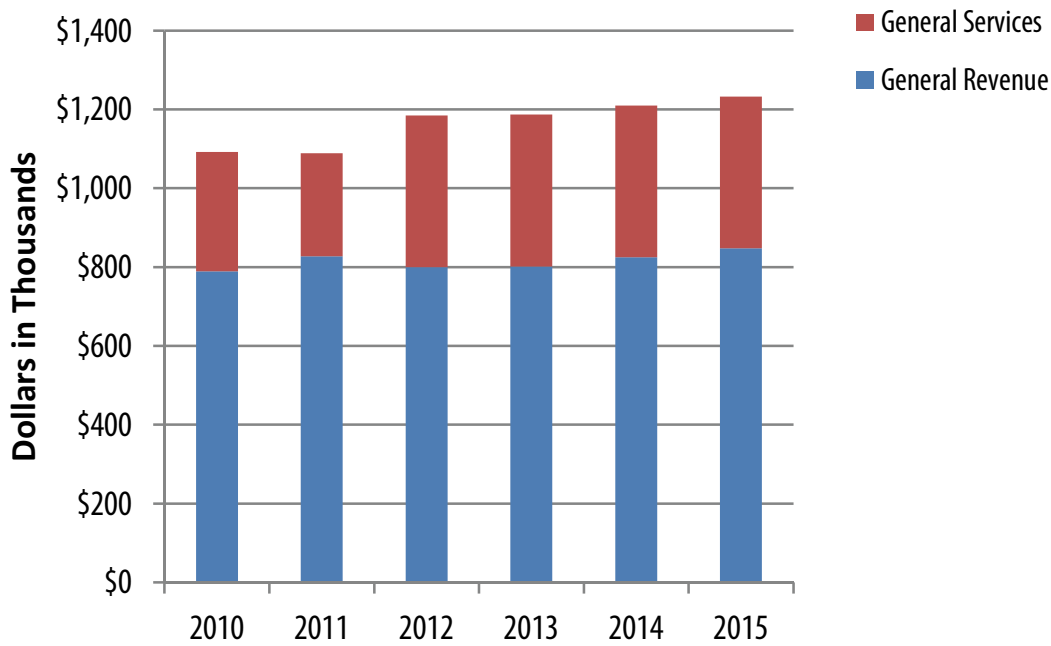
The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Promote Understanding: Staff will review over 1,000 legislative bills, conduct research surveys, write letters to legislators, write 10 to 15 judicial impact statements, and provide judicial testimony 10 to 20 times. Staff and judges will assist multiple collaborative groups.
- Encourage Uniformity: Staff will analyze the impact of new laws and court decisions and prepare and distribute bench aids, update bench books and draft forms and rules to assist in implementation throughout the state.

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- Promote the exchange of experience within the Judiciary: Staff will support over 22 standing and ad hoc judicial committees and coordinate more than 80 meetings per year in person or via conference call. Staff will assist six judicial associations to coordinate 20 to 30 meetings per year many involving 100 to 300 judges.
- Consider the business of justice and make recommendations: Court funding, jury and facility management, court costs and fees, and other issues of court administration will be considered and recommendations for improvement will be made to the judiciary and other government agencies.
- Consider the problems pertaining to the administration of justice: The system of justice which includes a multitude of agencies and institutions that interact with courts and judges will be considered and recommendations for improvement will be made to the judiciary and other government agencies.
- Preparation and publication of comprehensive Ohio Jury Instructions for use by Ohio judges. The committee will provide updates as needed but at least three times per year.
- Promote Public Confidence: Judges will be assisted with community outreach programs and hundreds of copies of eight popular citizen guide brochures will be distributed throughout Ohio at no state expense. Judges will consider the role of the judge in the community and make recommendations for improvement.

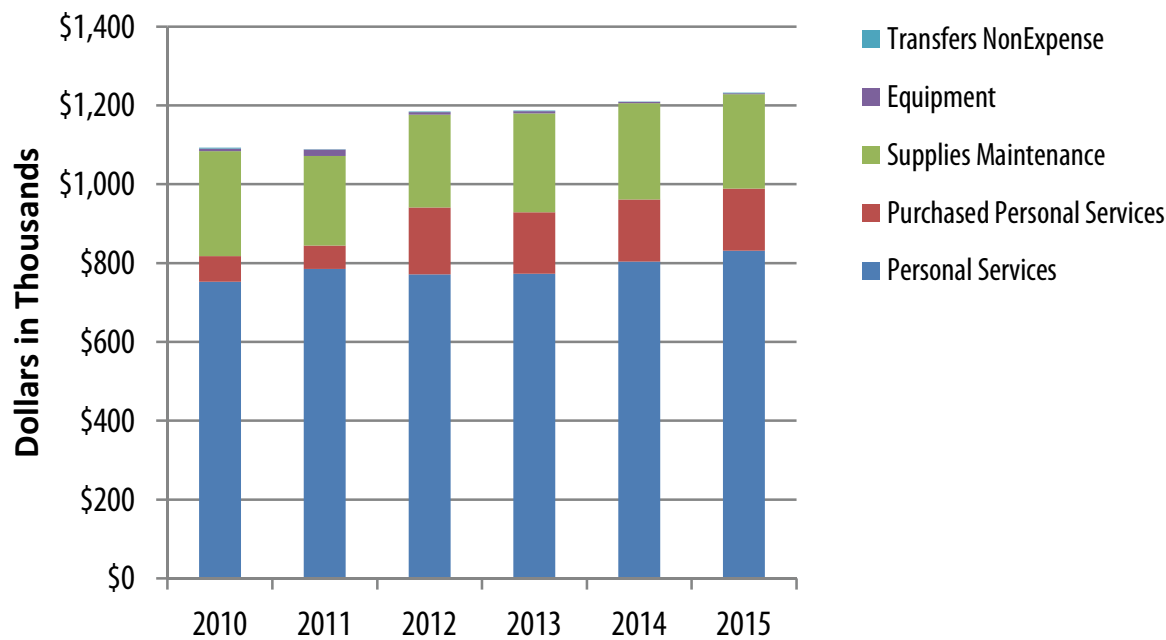
Budget Fund Group Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
General Revenue	789	827	800	802	0.2%	825	2.9%	847	2.7%
General Services	303	262	385	385	0.1%	385	0.0%	385	0.0%
Total	1,092	1,089	1,185	1,187	0.2%	1,210	2.0%	1,232	1.8%

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Expense Account Category Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
Personal Services	753	785	771	773	0.2%	804	4.0%	831	3.4%
Purchased Personal Services	65	59	170	156	-7.9%	157	0.5%	158	0.8%
Supplies & Maintenance	267	228	235	251	6.6%	245	-2.5%	239	-2.2%
Equipment	6	16	7	6	-17.3%	3	-40.9%	3	-15.4%
Transfers & Non-Expense	2	1	2	1	-26.3%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Total	1,092	1,089	1,185	1,187	0.2%	1,210	2.0%	1,232	1.8%

Program Series 1: Judicial System Review (135A0)

The Judicial Conference is an independent agency and integral part of the judicial branch. The conference has one program series, the Judicial System Review, which contains one program (135B0) of the same name. This program studies the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, reviews the system of justice throughout the state and recommends improvements. Its committees of judges provide expertise and practical insight and jury instructions. It provides information to the other government branches, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public.

			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
GRF	18321	Operating Expenses	801,700	824,900	2.9%	847,200	2.7%
4030	18601	Ohio Jury Instructions	385,000	385,000	0.0%	385,000	0.0%
Total for Judicial System Review			1,186,700	1,209,900	2.0%	1,232,200	1.8%

State of Ohio

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			Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	789,121	827,012	799,940	801,700	824,900	2.9%	847,200	2.7%
Total General Revenue			789,121	827,012	799,940	801,700	824,900	2.9%	847,200	2.7%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	303,222	261,658	384,660	385,000	385,000	0.0%	385,000	0.0%
Total General Services			303,222	261,658	384,660	385,000	385,000	0.0%	385,000	0.0%
Grand Total Judicial Conference of Ohio			1,092,343	1,088,670	1,184,600	1,186,700	1,209,900	2.0%	1,232,200	1.8%